

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 CU-04 NIC-01 ACDA-19

SCA-01 IO-13 HEW-08 AID-20 VO-03 RSR-01 /175 W

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R 271450Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2144

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PRR, GW, WB, GE

SUBJECT: WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL (WYF): FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION?

REF: BERLIN 1243

1. SUMMARY: POSSIBILITY OF FREE EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS
AT WYF HAS BEEN CAST IN DOUBT BY RECENT EAST GERMAN
RADIO ATTACK ON JUNGE UNION DELEGATION, WHICH HAS BEEN STRONGLY
PROTESTED BY LATTER. IN ADDITION, CONSPICUOUS PRESENCE OF GDR
POLICE AND TROOPS IN VICINITY OF SITES FOR EVENTS
MAY WELL DISCOURAGE ANY "NON-SANCTIONED" FESTIVAL
ACTIVITIES. AT SAME TIME, WEST GERMAN JUSO DELEGATION
HAS AFFIRMED INTENTION ACTIVELY TO PROPOUND CONCEPT
OF SOCIAL DEMOCRACY, AND HAS ECHOED EARLIER JUNGE
UNION STATEMENT THAT WEST BERLINERS EXPECT TO BE
TREATED AS INTEGRAL ELEMENT OF FRG DELEGATION. END SUMMARY.

2. KLAUS LANDOWSKY, LEADER OF JUNGE UNION DELEGATION

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TO WYF, STRONGLY PROTESTED IN JULY 25 TELEGRAM TO

FESTIVAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE A "STIMME DER DDR"
COMMENTARY OF PREVIOUS DAY CHARACTERIZING JUNGE UNION
DELEGATION AS "YOUNG REACTIONARIES OF CDU/CSU WHO WISH
TO CARRY OUT PROVOCATIONS IN THE GDR." LANDOWSKY
TERMED COMMENTARY "SLANDER AND UNDISGUISED THREAT," AND
EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IT IMPLIED WITHDRAWAL OF
GUARANTEE OF PERSONAL FREEDOM AND RIGHT TO UNHINDERED
EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS DURING WYF. HE CALLED UPON
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE TO TAKE URGENT STEPS TO PREVENT
RESTRICTIONS BEING IMPOSED ON JUNGE UNION DELEGATES.

3. WOLFGAN BIERMANN, BERLIN YOUNG SOCIALIST (JUSO)
CHAIRMAN, ALSO TOUCHED ON THEME OF FREE EXCHANGE OF
OPINIONS AT PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 25. BIERMANN SAID
THAT JUSO DELEGATES TO WYF WOULD A "ACTIVELY PUT FOWARD"
THEIR CONCEPT OF DEMOCRATIC PATH TO SOCIALISM AT
SEMINARS AND DISCUSSIONS IN EAST BERLIN. JUSOS WOULD
ALSO SEEK TO MAKE CLEAR TO OTHER DELEGATES THAT SPD
IS NOT "IMPERIALIST" PARTY AND THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
PURSUES NO "IMPERIALIST" POLICIES. FOLLOWING JUNGE
UNION LEAD (REFTEL), BIERMANN TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE
THAT FOUR WEST BERLIN MEMBERS OF 55-MAN JUSO DELGATION
EXPECTED THEY WOULD BE TREATED AS INTEGRAL MEMBERS OF
DELEGATION. IN EVENT FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS ATTEMPTED TO
SEPARATE WEST BERLINERS FROM WEST GERMANS, JUSO DELEGATION
WOULD CONSULT WITH JUSO NATIONAL COMMITTEE AND WITH
OTHER WEST GERMAN GROUPS PARTICIPATING IN WYF. UNLIKE
LANDOWSKY, BIERMANN DID NOT DIRECTLY THREATEN WITHDRAWAL
IN THIS EVENTUALITY.) SOMEWHAT INCONSISTENTLY, SECOND
JUSO SPOKESMAN STATED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED
GROUNDS FOR PROTEST IF BERLIN FLAG WAS FLOWN NEXT TO
FRG FLAG AT FRG PARTICIPANTS' ACCOMMODATIONS IN
RUMMELSBURG.

4. CONCERN RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY GDR AUTHORITIES OVER
POTENTIAL SECURITY PROBLEMS AT WYF IS WELL IN EVIDENCE.
SITES OF WYF EVENTS IN EAST BERLIN, PARTICULARLY WORLD
YOUTH STADIUM, WHERE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD, ARE
ALREADY HEAVILY GUARDED AND/OR PATROLLED BY VOPOS, NVA,
AND FDJ ELEMENTS. SUCH CONSPICUOUS PRESENCE OF SECURITY
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FORCES IS UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO CALCULATED TO DISCOURAGE
EXPRESS OF VIEWS, PARTICULARLY THROUGH DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE,
THAT ARE INCONSISTENT WITH OFFICIAL PROPAGANDA LINE.BORG

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